# SPRING HILL \* CITYVIEW TIMES COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 63

March-April 2009



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

I don't know about you all, but I am tired of the cold weather and the snow. The good news is that Spring is near. With that, we are looking forward to the months ahead.

We are planning a new event, the Crock Pot Cook-Off. We hope to see all of you there. It is a great chance to meet your neighbors and to get some easy-to-cook recipes. We are also planning guest speakers for future general meetings, continuing to recruit volunteers, and advocating for city services.

We hope you can join us in all of our efforts because your efforts make a difference. Just like last vear, we had a party to thank those who made a difference to our community. We really can't say enough about how thankful we are for their help. There is no way we could continue without the community's participation. The volunteer party was a big success as we were able to thank our many volunteers for their time and service to our community. You can read more about our volunteer party inside. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Jackie Hoffman President Spring Hill Civic League

# DIG OUT YOUR FAVORIE CROCK POT RECIPES

#### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 - 4:00 PM St. Ambrose Hall

The Spring Hill Civic League (SHCL) is inviting you to bring your best crock pot dish to St. Ambrose Hall on Haslage Avenue to participate in the 2009 Crock Pot Cook-Off on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Get to know some of your neighbors during a little friendly competition. The SCHL Board will be judging dishes entered into the contest.



To enter you favorite dish call Pete McQuillin at 412-977-2207, or fill out the registration form that you will find at the bottom of the flyer on page 13 and mail it to Pete at 1713 Hunnell St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. The deadline for submission is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# COMMUNITY MOSAIC WORKSHOPS

April 29<sup>th</sup> & May 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 - 8:00 PM Spring Hill Elementary School

Community workshops will be held on Spring Hill. Make your own tiles for the Homer Street firehouse mosaic project. Join in the fun!

# GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM Homer Street Firehouse



We will once again be participating in the statewide clean-up effort on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Organizations and neighborhood groups across the state will be picking up litter in honor of Earth Day. Dubbed the "Redd Up" weekend by local group Citizens Against Litter (<u>www.citizensagainstlitter.org</u>), over 90 Pittsburgh communities including 80 city neighborhoods will be participating.

We will be meeting at the Homer Street Firehouse at 9:00 AM. Gloves and bags will be provided. Water will be available and we'll have pizza afterwards for all participants. Please come out and join us!

For any questions contact Ben Soltesz, 412-231-0303.





## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2009

General Meeting Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium

Crock Pot Cook-Off Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM St. Ambrose Hall

<u>Great Pennsylvania Cleanup</u> Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM Homer Street Firehouse

Community Mosaic Workshop Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 PM Spring Hill Elementary School

<u>General Meeting</u> Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium

Community Mosaic Workshop Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 PM Spring Hill Elementary School

**General Meetings** are scheduled at the Spring Hill Elementary School auditorium at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Please submit articles for the May/June edition by April 15<sup>th</sup> to: Joan Russell 2115 Rockledge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212-3533 412-322-9945 joanrussell@aol.com

# ZONE ONE OPEN HOUSE

Zone One will host an open house on the first Tuesday of each month beginning Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Commander Brackney and Officer Hodges will be attending in March. Zone One's Plain Clothes Detectives will be available to discuss any concerns you many have involving a particular case.

#### NEWSLETTER MAIL DELIVERY



For a yearly subscription by mail, send \$8.00 to: Spring Hill/Cityview Times at c/o 1149 Admiral Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212

# SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE WEB SITE

www.shcl.org

Past editions of the newsletter are available online.

## UNITED WAY GIVING

The Spring Hill Civic League has been a United Way's Contributor's Choice for the past several years. Your generosity has helped to fund community activities and defrays routine overhead expenses. A grateful Thank You to all who support the community through the United Way. The civic league's Contributor's Choice code number is 207.

#### SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

With the continuing goal of community strength and enrichment, and encouraging the participation of all community residents and business leaders, the Spring Hill Civic League accepts as its defining mission the responsibility to serve its neighborhood by assisting in the achievement of its many common goals.

# **Board of Directors**

President:Jackie HoffmanVice President:Dianne BurnsSecretary:KarenMcLellanTreasurer:Ben SolteszDirectors:Eileen Back,Stephen Brady,Pete McQuillin,and Joan Russell

# SPRING HILL CIVIC LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

President Jackie Hoffman 412-605-9362 jackie@shcl.org

Vice President Dianne Burns 412-231-7718 <u>contact@shcl.org</u>or dianne.burns@verizon.net

Treasurer Ben Soltesz 412-231-0303 <u>contact@shcl.org</u> or <u>bensoltesz@gmail.com</u>

Secretary Karen McLellan 412-231-5697 <u>contact@shcl.org</u>or <u>kmm541@comcast.net</u>

Newsletter Editor Joan Russell 412-322-9945 <u>contact@shcl.org</u>or joanrussell@aol.com



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy sixth birthday to Hannah Rosenberger on March 16<sup>th</sup>, happy birthday to

Terry Gerst of Homer Street on March 31<sup>st</sup> and Bill Gerst of Homer Street on April 27<sup>th</sup>!

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Wilma and George Reis who are the proud great grandparents of

a little girl, Olivia Teresa, born in January.

# WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

To Maria Gonzales from Puerto Rico of Sophia Street.

If you would like to welcome a neighbor on your street, submit the announcement to joanrussell@aol.com.

New neighbors, if you would like to be informed of meetings and other community information via e-mail, please contact Ben Soltesz at contact@shcl.org or bensoltesz@gmail.com.

# Correction to Jan/Feb Newsletter

The picture on page 4 of the Schenkel property should have been identified as being located where St. Ambrose Manor is today.

# OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

To the family and friends of Marlene V. (Hegel) Orth of Spring Hill, wife of the late Richard C. Orth. She passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>... to the family and friends of Margaret E. (Funfar) Rombach of Spring Hill, wife of the late Joseph A. Rombach. She passed away on January 16<sup>th</sup>... to the family and friends of Jacqueline M. Stettner of Spring Hill, beloved mother of David (Connie) Karpinski. She passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>... to the family and friends of John M. Griffin formerly of Spring Hill, brother of the late Mary (Griffin) Loeffert and Anne (Griffin) Chraska. He passed away on February 1<sup>st</sup> ... to the family and friends of Sylvia Ann Carner of Spring Hill, daughter of the late William and Mary Carner. She passed away on February 2<sup>nd</sup> ... to the family and friends of Ralph R. Feith of Spring Hill, husband of the late Lorraine Feith. He passed away on February 10<sup>th</sup> ... and to the family and friends of Carl F. Lukitsch of Spring Hill, husband of the late Bernadette. He passed away on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of mourning.



# SPRING HILL/CITYVIEW YAHOO CHAT GROUP

If you're not already a member, you might like to join the Spring Hill/CityView Yahoo chat group. This is a place for neighbors to share information about and of interest to Spring Hill and CityView residents. This includes names and contact information for contractors and other service providers you've had good experiences with, job postings, local community event announcements, lost pets, items for sale, local clubs, or any items of interest to residents.

#### To join go to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ spring-hill/.

If you have any trouble signing up call Pete McQuillin at 412-977-2207 while at your computer and he'll walk you through the sign up.

# HOLY WISDOM FOOD BANK

This vital ministry serves many in our community who are having hard times. The food bank is not government-funded and depends upon donations and volunteers within Holy Wisdom parish and our community. This means that the donations you make go directly to your neighbor, not anywhere else in the city. Please help your neighbors in need.

ESB Bank has been collecting food and gift cards all year and will continue to do so. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at the Bank during normal business hours. Checks or gift cards can be sent to Holy Wisdom Food Pantry, 1025 Haslage Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

The food bank at Holy Wisdom (St. Ambrose School) is held every third Tuesday of the month, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

To register for the food bank or to volunteer call 412-231-1116.

#### March-April 2009



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# **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we had a grand gathering of our block workers and volunteers. Our devoted board solicited wonderful treats and great door prizes for everyone. A great time was had by all! The board decided this would be a great way to show our volunteers how much we, as a community, appreciate all the help year round.

Our "Appreciation" party was well attended. Steve Brady once again hosted our event and welcomed us into his beautiful Memorial Home. The Reserve Bar & Grill donated two different kinds of hot wings, Bistro to Go donated great meat balls, and Legends prepared their signature bruschetta. We topped our first class cake from The Priory with outstanding custard served by Rita's Ice! Door prizes were donated from lots of area businesses.



A big "Thank You" goes out to the following business that helped us help our community. Please show your gratitude by shopping at these businesses.

Amani International Coffee House and Cafe International Coffee 507 Foreland Street

412-322-0647 Bernie's Photo Center And Photo Museum

525 East Ohio Street 412-231-1717

**Billy's Restaurant** *In Troy Hill* 1720 Lowrie Street 412-231-9277

Bistro to Go Meals, Catering, Classes 415 East Ohio Street 412-231-0218 www.Bistro-togo.com

The Bread Works The BEST Bread 2110 Brighton Road 412-231-7555 **Grant Bar** *Fine Dining* 114 Grant Avenue Millvale PA 15209

Kasunick's Beer Dist. 807 East Street

412-321-0257

Keystone Plumbing Has Everything! 1215 Brighton Road 412-462-8600

Legends North Shore 500 East North Avenue 412-321-1428

Marshall's Gas Gas Convenience Store 1520 Spring Garden Avenue 412-321-1614

Max's Allegheny Tavern German Cuisine 537 Suismon Street Priory Fine Pastries

Pastries, Wedding Cakes 528 East Ohio Street 412-321-7270 www.prioryfinepastries.com

**Reserve Bar & Grill** Best Fish Sandwich 3433 Spring Garden Avenue 412-231-9488

**Rita's Ice** *Ice-Custard-Happiness* 401 East Ohio Street 412-322-7423

Shaklee

Creating Healthier Lives Since 1956 412-231-7718 www.shaklee.net/dburns

Sweet Time Café/General Store Unique Gifts & Post Office 435 East Ohio Street 412-231-7170

Tastefully Simple The food you love, the time you deserve

## HELP SAVE ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St. Michael and All Angels' Lutheran Church located at 1308 Spring Garden Avenue is suffering some financial difficulties. Because of low membership and the rising cost of everyday maintenance and utilities we may be forced to shut our doors. Perhaps St. Michael's has been there for you or your family in the past. Now is your chance to help!

St. Michael's is planning a series of fund raisers. The first will be a <u>Rummage and Bake</u> <u>Sale</u> scheduled for Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and Sunday from 12:00 Noon to ?. (Sunday everything will be half off.) Your donations of unwanted household items and/or baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Please plan to attend and find some real bargains and delicious treats.

You can contact the church for donation information at 412-231-2183, or email <u>stmichaelandallangelslutheran</u> <u>@verizon.net</u>, or contact Jon Harangozo at 412-322-2102.

St. Michael's also has a hall available to rent for parties such as birthdays, showers, graduations, and funerals, with seating capacity for over 100 people with a full kitchen. Encourage your family and friends to consider using our facilities. Contact the office for more information and pricing Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 9:00 AM - 2:00PM.

Bring your family and friends to our worship services at the church or the chapel on Spring



Hill, located on Rhine Street. Services are Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (contemporary liturgy at the Fuhr Center), Saturday at 6:00 PM (spoken liturgy at the church), Sunday at 9:00 AM (spoken liturgy at the chapel) and Sunday at 11:00 AM (traditional liturgy at the church).

#### ST. MICHAEL'S UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Lent/Easter Worship Services

St. Michael & All Angels'
Lutheran Church
Main Church –
1308 Spring Garden Avenue
Spring Hill Chapel –
Rhine and Walz Streets

#### Ash Wednesday Worship -

February 25<sup>th</sup> 4:45 PM at the Spring Hill chapel 7:00 PM at the main church

**Stations of the Cross** Fridays during Lent 6:00 PM at the main church

#### Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion April 5<sup>th</sup>

- Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM at the main church
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM at the Spring Hill chapel, 11:00 AM at the main church
- Holy Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at the main church
- Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM at the main church
- Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 -2:00 PM at the Spring Hill chapel, 2:30 - 3:30 PM at the main church Good Friday 8:00 PM Liturgy at the main church

#### The Resurrection of our Lord Easter Liturgies April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Solemn Vigil of Easter Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM at the main church

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Easter worship at the Spring Hill chapel 11:00 AM Easter worship at the main church

**The Youth Group** at St. Michael's meets on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the main church. We have Youth Group activities for ages 5-18. Please come and join in the fun - all children are welcome.

**St. Michael's Rummage Sale** will be Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM and Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 Noon - ?. If you would like to make donations for the sale please call the church office at 412-231-2183 or Jon

Harangozo at 412-322-2102.

#### Fellowship Hall Rental at St. Michael and All Angels' Lutheran Church

The Fellowship Hall is available to rent for receptions and parties of all kinds including baptisms, birthdays, bridal/baby showers, graduations, and funerals. We have a seating capacity of over 100 people with a full kitchen and outdoor patio. Please call the church office for more information and pricing.

St. Michael and All Angels' Lutheran Church 1308 Spring Garden Ave. 412-231-2183 Rev. Patricia Bonds, Pastor



# EARLY YEARS ON SPRING HILL

## Submitted by Norbert Nathanson

I've been reading the recent newsletters online and enjoyed AI Schmittlein's remembrances and nostalgia, the most recent of which was on the occasion of Herb Bernstein's death. I was in school with Herb and AI, and was confirmed with Herb in the then German Evangelical Church at Itin and Walz Streets. It made me think about my own early years on Spring Hill.

From the rear of the second story porch, at 54 Woessner Avenue where I grew up, you could see in the far distance the Bellefield Bridge. It's the bridge on Liberty Avenue that crosses from Liberty Avenue to Baum Boulevard. If you then turned 90 degrees to the left you faced what we, as kids, called "the mountain". It was a favorite play site in the summer and great for sled riding in the winter. At the top of Buente Street was a large field used for softball. Beyond the field, halfway up "the mountain" where it became steeper, there was a long ditch that paralleled Buente Street. The ditch was dug a very long time ago, probably to stop erosion in the lower fields when they had been farmed. The resulting soil embankment was almost like a ski jump when on a sled.

Between the end of Itin Street (which was the end of the streetcar line where Josie Eichelman's candy and cigarette store stood across the street from Suckit's Saloon) and the top of the Buente Street hill was the old Hespenhide property. It consisted at that time of a mansion type brick house that had a long driveway from the street to a turn-around circle at the house, a large barn, and a carriage house. When I was a child the carriage house still had a couple of antique carriages parked inside, but the barn was sagging and beginning to collapse. According to my mother, who grew up on Zoller Street where her folks had a butcher store just a few doors up from Brahm Street, the Hespenhides had been a wealthy family whose very large estate encompassed the entire "mountain." If memory serves me, Mr. Hespenhide had been in the distillery business. There was a sizeable wine cellar, unused for many years, deep in the ground that could be entered from a trapdoor in front of the front porch. None but the most daring of us ever attempted to explore it for it was quite deep. The house stood ramshackle and decaying through a succession of renters until the Three Rivers housing project was built on the grounds.

The driveway to the Hespenhide house was lined with sickle pear and horse chestnut trees. Beside the house was an aged sour cherry orchard that, when in season, commanded the attention of us neighborhood kids. How well I remember one or two of the guys climbing the pear trees and shaking them while the rest of us gathered the delicious falling fruit. The cherry trees were small enough for everyone to climb and pick. Even the sour cherries when ripe were sweet to the taste. Between the cherry orchard and the street, parallel to the long entrance drive, was what had once been a tennis court. It was reclaimed partially for two horseshoe pitching courts by "Boy" Kraw (a nickname that was a carry-over from his childhood), who lived across the street in the large yellow brick house. The old surface of the tennis court, when dug up and mixed with water, made a good mud for pitching.

Below the barn were the remains of what had once been a spring pond, at the time overgrown but still marshy. Just below the pond there was an area where the turnaround circle for the new single ended, streamlined, red and cream trolleys was constructed. The hill had a gentle rise and for a number of summers prior to World War II, at that spot an outdoor movie theater company would come to visit. It was owned by an enterprising fellow who would erect a large screen and for five nights of the week show 35 mm movies complete with sound right there on the hillside. Everybody in the neighborhood would come with his or her blankets, cushions, and chairs. As soon as it was dark enough the movie would begin. Three quarters of the way through the film, the projector would be shut



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# EARLY YEARS ON SPRING HILL

## (Continued from page 6)

down so the proprietor and his family could sell their boxes of home made taffy. When they had sold their quota for the night the film would continue, and by 10:45 the hillside would be quiet and empty.

How well I remember seeing Alfred Hitchcock's *The Thirty-Nine Steps* there on that hillside at the end of the streetcar line. I think I was twelve years old.

You can contact Norbert Nathanson at 48 Saturday Cove Road, Northport, ME 04849 or at norbhnat@localnet.com.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE GERST

Clarence C. Gerst, age 86, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 5, 2006. He lived on the North Side until two years before his death when he moved to Ohio, near his daughter. During World War II Clarence proudly served four years in the Army Air Corps, spending two of those years in the Aleutian Islands. After the war Clarence worked until retirement for J&L Steel (LTV). He was a loving family man and will be remembered for his kind and gentle spirit and his love of music.<sup>1</sup>

Clarence was interested in local history and his collection of early photographs of Spring Hill and the East Street valley area was legendary. Copies of some of these photographs can be found on the walls of Brady Memorial Home on South Side Avenue. In 1999 the walkway which crosses I-279 from East Street to Howard Street in Pittsburgh was designated Gerst Way in his honor.<sup>2</sup>

Clarence was preceded in death by his beloved wife Esther; his parents, Leo and Amelia; his



brother, Richard; baby sister, Gertrude and nephew, Donnie. He is survived by his daughter, Carol (Tom) Crowley of OH; his grand- daughter, Carol (Chip) Bond of TN; two great-grandsons, Matthew and Nathan Bond of TN; his brother, Ray (Helen) Gerst of North Side; as well as many nephews and nieces.<sup>1</sup>

If Clarence could say one last thing to his family and friends, it would be that God loves you; Christ died for you; and if you call upon the name of the Lord, you will be saved too, so that you can join him some day in Heaven. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).<sup>1</sup>

Clarence Gerst, photograph courtesy of nephew William Gerst.

- 1. Clarence C. Gerst obituary, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 7 March 2006.
- 2. The General Assembly of Pennsylvania, House Bill No. 1268, Session of 1999.

#### CITY OF PITTSBURGH COUNCILWOMAN DARLENE M. HARRIS

# **City of Lights**

At a recent post-agenda hearing in City Council I said, "I'd like us to be the City of Lights." I was quoted in the press, and when I think of how beautiful our city already is I am certain we can achieve this.

It is 100 years since the City first electrified the public throughways. To bring the technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to our service, Council has sought the advice and assistance of national experts such as the Clinton Foundation. Working with the Clinton Climate Initiative we can garner advice and information on best practices, and assistance finding funding sources. They can work with us on lighting and in many other areas such as wastewater treatment and building retrofits. We have made connections with other cities and are learning from their experiences.

We also are working on policy issues, research, and creative solutions with Carnegie Mellon University, specifically with Luis Rico Gutierrez, Director of the Remaking Cities Institute, and Cindy Limauro, Professor of Lighting Design. These people bring global experience – they work across the country, in Europe, and in Canada.

We will build on this information and ultimately make Pittsburgh the model which other cities will want to copy. Financially we will obtain support from foundations and initiatives to begin changing our lighting. The fixtures will save us money by lasting a decade or longer and will use far less energy, among other benefits.

This is not just about changing our light fixtures, it's about designing a whole new, citywide model for our lighting.

What are Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs)? Essentially they are chips which transmit light. We have been using them in clocks for quite a while and in other appliances as well. There are now television screens made of LEDs – red, green, and blue, so that any color can be mixed and displayed on the TV. We have computer screens and billboards composed of LEDs. And we can make lighting fixtures out of them.

As one of the leading methods of reducing energy consumption without reducing lumens of light. LED lighting can replace incandescent, fluorescent, and high-intensity discharge lighting. LED lights can be used outdoors and indoors, for street lights, traffic lights, building lighting, and interior lights. For street lights it can reduce energy consumption usually by 50-90%. Fixtures can last as long as two decades and can be relatively maintenance-free. They can be designed to reduce output after 2:00 AM, and can be directed more efficiently onto the areas needed, eliminating undesirable spill. They work in all weather and present virtually no environmental concerns with disposal.

We have the opportunity to design our new lighting from the ground up. It will be efficient,

environmentally friendly, and beautiful, and it will serve us well into the future. We will design the optimal system and find the best equipment.

Additionally, we should look into having companies that make this equipment locate branch factories in the City of Pittsburgh, thus providing jobs and increasing local productivity. Maybe we can entice them to locate in District 1.

As your elected City Council person I remain accessible to you. Please feel free to contact the office at 412-255-2135. You can also communicate with me via email at: darlene.harris@city.pittsburgh. pa.us.

#### PITTSBURGH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



The 2009 Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 10:00 AM.

There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Pittsburgh since as early as 1869. The parade has increased in size over the years and is one of the largest in the country.

For additional information go to <u>http://www.pittsburghirish.org/</u>parade.





#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE DON WALKO REPORTS

# Problem-solving courts save tax dollars, make communities safer

As chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, I believe that even in these difficult economic times, the Commonwealth should provide additional funding to counties for use in establishing and maintaining problem-solving courts. I intend to introduce legislation that would establish a grant program with up to \$3 million per year from the Department of Corrections administrative budget.

Problem-solving courts use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to address the underlying issues that help lead to criminal behavior. Mental health and drug treatment courts are two examples of effective problem-solving courts.

Drug treatment courts involve the coordinated efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, and social service communities. These courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision that is coupled with effective, long-term treatment services. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals reports that 18 studies have found average cost savings -- through reduced prison costs in particular -- of \$4,000 to \$12,000 per drug treatment court participant.

Mental health courts focus on offenders who need treatment for mental illness. They link people convicted of non-violent crimes to community-based treatment for mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction. A Rand Corporation study found that the cost of mental health treatment is offset in the first year by the savings in the cost of incarceration, and that by the second year Allegheny County saved more than \$9,500 per mental health court participant.

These programs substantially reduce crime by lowering rearrest and conviction rates among drug treatment and mental health court graduates. Investments in problem-solving courts will help us save scarce tax dollars while at the same time making communities safer.

If you have questions on a staterelated issue or subject, please visit <u>www.pahouse.com/Walko</u> or call my office at 412-321-5523.

## DOWNUNDER COFFEEHOUSE

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the DownUnder Coffeeehouse will present the Riveting Rosies.

All DownUnder shows are held in a lovely, cozy space set up in the basement of the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church at 416 West North Ave. There's a suggested donation of \$5, which includes coffee and tea. Baked goods and other beverages are available for purchase during the shows.

On the web at <u>http://www.alleghenyuu.org/</u> <u>downunder</u>

# PRIME STAGE THEATRE PRESENTS



*Twelve Angry Men* March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>

Prime Stage Theatre, where literature comes to life, presents *Twelve Angry Men*, a theatrical favorite in which twelve jurors must decide the fate of an 18 year-old urban boy convicted of murder.

Browse the prime stage web site <u>www.primestage.com</u> and learn about the many opportunities to enjoy theatre and support Prime Stage.

# LOCAL PRODUCE

For information on farmers markets, Community Supported Agricultural Programs, and other sources of local produce and meats visit <u>www.buylocalpa.org</u>.

# SPRING IS HERE!

Want to look great in your bathing suit this year? Learn how to manage your weight the fun easy way. www.cinchplan.com/dburns

Moms – want healthy kids? Want to be a stay-at-home Mom? www.projectmahma.com/dburns

Check it Out!